

## 00009-22 - Key Points on Impacts to Critical Infrastructure, Demonstrations Across Canada - 17 Feb 2022 12:00 EST

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**Date:** Thu, 17 Feb 2022 16:59:03 +0000  
**Attachments:** Geomatics\_-\_00009-22\_Convoy\_2022-02-17\_1100.png (1.51 MB)

*Sent on behalf of Deryck Trehearne, DG GOC*

Colleagues,

New information in bold as of 12:00 EST, 17 Feb. Please ensure proper distribution of the KPs to officials with need-to-know.

### **BLUF**

- Renewed police presence visible in downtown Ottawa as occupation nears 4th weekend. [Link](#)
- There has been a reduction in heavy trucks in the downtown but an increase in pick-up trucks and personal vehicles.
- Ottawa By-law has advised protesters with pets at demonstration that if they are unable to care for their animal as a result of enforcement actions, their animal will be placed into protective care for eight days, at their cost. After eight days, if arrangements are not made, their animal will be considered relinquished. [Link](#)
- A winter storm is heading towards the capital and is expected to begin during the evening of 17 Feb; 20 - 30 cm of snow is expected by the morning of 18 Feb. [Link](#)
- Messaging from TBS OCHRO and PCO will be going out shortly to all Chief Security Officers and federal operations centres. The updated communication will mainly reinforce current messaging.

**IMPACTED AREAS:** (Details on Demonstrations in affected cities/regions)

### **Ottawa, ON:**

- Renewed police presence visible in downtown Ottawa as occupation nears 4th weekend. [Link](#)
- As of the morning of 17 Feb, fences were being set up in front of government buildings including Parliament Hill and the Senate. Police vehicles, including marked OPP were seen gathering at the EY Centre near the international airport to the south. [Link](#)

- There has been a reduction in heavy trucks in the downtown but an increase in pick-up trucks and personal vehicles.
- **Police resources continue to deliver messaging to the demonstrators.**
- **A winter storm is heading towards the capital and is expected to begin on the evening of 17 Feb. Environment Canada has issued a Winter Storm Warning for Ottawa. There is also a special weather statement in effect for the capital. Total rainfall amounts of 10-25 mm are possible by the afternoon of 17 Feb, and 20-30 cm of snow is expected by the morning of 18 Feb. [Link](#)**
- The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa has issued a statement warning parents who have brought children to the "Freedom Convoy" occupation downtown to ensure their kids can be cared for in case they're arrested. [Link](#)
- Court grants an extension of noise injunction against horn blowing in downtown Ottawa for 60 days.
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill until 28 Feb.

#### **Emerson POE:**

- **Emerson POE is open. No delays reported by CBSA as of 09:45 EST 17 Feb.**
- **NOTAM over Emerson has been cancelled.**

#### **Coutts POE:**

- **Coutts POE is open. No delays reported by CBSA as of 09:45 EST 17 Feb.**
- **CBC News is reporting new details about some of the men and women arrested in connection with the Coutts, Alta., border blockades on Monday. Of the four southern Alberta men accused of conspiring to murder RCMP officers, two have ties to a man who founded a neo-fascist, white supremacist group that aims to accomplish its goals through violence. [Link](#)**

#### **Windsor:**

- **As of 0630 EST, the Ambassador Bridge has remained open with no impacts to operations at this time.**

#### **Lacolle POE:**

- **The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) has increased patrols near the [Canada-U.S. border crossing](#) in the Lacolle, QC, area on Highway 15 after being notified of a possible convoy protest blockade. SQ has set up a checkpoint near the border crossing to ensure there is a steady flow of traffic. So far, no protesters have been detected. [Link](#)**

#### **WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:**

#### **IMVE:**

- **As per ITAC:**

- Individuals seeking to participate in a legitimate protest are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism.
- The most likely IMVE-related scenario involves an individual or small group using readily available weapons and resources such as knives, firearms, homemade explosives and vehicles in public areas against soft targets, including opposition groups or members of the general public.
- The increase in violent online rhetoric targeting uniformed personnel is likely not indicative of increased intent by IMVE actors to conduct planned, directed attacks against members of law enforcement. Uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted because of their accessibility in the course of their duties. The terrorism threat to uniformed personnel remains MEDIUM.
- IMVE adherents may feel empowered by the level of disorder resulting from the protests. This could lead to individuals vulnerable to extremist messaging to commit isolated acts of violence.

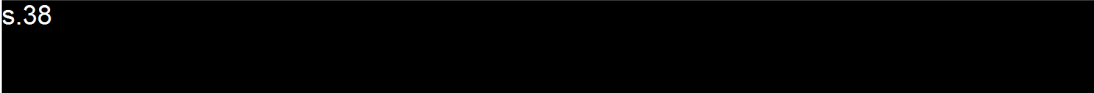
#### International:

- NSTR

#### Maritime/CCG:

- NSTR

#### Foreign Interference:

- s.38 
- Prominent discussions online about the “Truckers Convoy” have continued to shift, now overlapping with those related to the *Emergencies Act*. A significant portion of engagement and activity continues to come from US online communities, driven by key US influencers, alternative media and political actors. Given the transnational nature of this discussion, it is difficult to determine exact metrics, but analysis indicates a clear interest among various US communities, including those sympathising with protesters, conspiracy-minded groups, and ideologically motivated networks.
- RRM Canada has also noted a trending narrative around a “bank run” in Canada. The narrative distorts the impact of new financial measures to curb foreign funding, casting the measures as a threat to Canadians’ own personal bank accounts (i.e., banks will broadly freeze accounts without legitimate cause). The narrative appears to be aimed at amplifying Canadians’ concerns around these new powers, as well as spurring Canadians to withdraw funds from their bank accounts in an effort to destabilize Canadian institutions. The discussion on Twitter is currently operating at low levels compared with overall activity. There are no indications of significant foreign state-sponsored interference in this discussion, with much of the activity resembling organic engagement, profit-seeking groups, and key US influencers amplifying the narrative.

- International networks and state-aligned media (e.g., those aligned with the **s.38** and **s.38** governments) continue to engage in the “Truckers Convoy” discussion. These discussions focus on a number of themes including: claims of Canadian hypocrisy, questioning Canada’s commitment to the rule of law, and sympathising with protesters. This continues to operate at low levels compared with overall activity.

#### Financing:

- FINTRAC is working closely with businesses and its Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing Regime partners to implement the new requirements that were announced by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on 14 Feb.
- Crowdfunding sites are not a regulated business sector under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA). However, should these sites transact with or through [businesses](#) that are subject to the Act, such as financial institutions, suspicious transactions may be reported.

#### CSIS **s.38**

- No concerns at this time.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS:

- Members of the Ottawa blockade that has kept the capital at a standstill for nearly three full weeks are calling the federal government's use of the *Emergencies Act* a scare tactic. [Link](#)

#### OVERALL ASSESSMENT: (Derived from information available on open sources)

- The majority of the events have been peaceful.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.

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